

REMARKS

The Office Action of October 19, 2006 was received and carefully reviewed. The Examiner is thanked for reviewing this application.

Filed concurrently herewith is a *Request for a Two-Month Extension of Time* which extends the shortened statutory period of response to March 19, 2007. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that this response is being timely filed.

Claims 1-20 were pending prior to the instant amendment. By this amendment, claims 1-6 and 9-20 have been amended to recite additional features to which Applicant are entitled. Claims 3, 11 and 17 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, claims 1, 2, 4-10, 12-16 and 18-20 are pending, of which claims 1, 9 and 15 are independent.

In the Office Action, the drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The Examiner objected to the drawings with regard to showing the “receiving”, the “providing”, the “linking”, the “combining”, and the “negotiating” steps of the method claimed. It is believed that the amended Figure 2 overcomes this objection in combination with the amendment to the specification above showing and clarifying support for these changes. Based on the above amendments, Applicant respectfully requests that this objection be removed. Further, the specification is objected to for informalities. Based on the above amendments, Applicant respectfully requests that this objection be removed. Still further, the claims are objected to with regard to stating “I claim” at the beginning of the claims and for the sequence of method steps. Based on the above amendments, Applicant respectfully requests that this objection be removed.

On page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, based on indefiniteness grounds. In response, Applicant has properly amended the claims to overcome this rejection. Accordingly, each of the claims fully comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

On page 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kwok et al. (U.S. Pat. Pub. 2002/0188500 – hereafter Kwok).

In the Office Action, the Examiner asserts that Kwok anticipates the claimed

invention. However, Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 9 and 15 to recite, *inter alia*, the features of “receiving postings of business venture assets to a provider; providing to a plurality of customers access to said postings via a business agreement with the provider; linking the plurality of customers to said business venture assets via the provider; connecting the business venture assets with the plurality of linked customers via the provider; and negotiating for an equity stake between the plurality of linked customers to create at least one new business.” (See specification of Applicant at paragraphs [0021] to [0026], [0030] and [0036]). Kwok discloses a system for managing exploration and production of data within the oil and gas industry. Kwok is not concerned with and fails to teach or disclose linking customers and assets in such a way as to create new and diverse business ventures. Kwok does not teach or disclose any negotiating step for an equity stake between customers to create a new business. Kwok only discloses negotiating with regard to service providers but not with regard to between customers (see paragraph [0101] of Kwok). In fact, Kwok is silent with regard to at least the features of connecting the business venture assets with the plurality of linked customers via the provider; and negotiating for an equity stake between the plurality of linked customers to create at least one new business, as presently claimed. Thus, Applicant contends that Kwok does not teach or disclose the features of connecting the business venture assets with the plurality of linked customers via the provider; and negotiating for an equity stake between the plurality of linked customers to create at least one new business, as recited in all independent claims 1, 9 and 15. Therefore it cannot be said that Kwok anticipates the invention as presently claimed.

Regarding claims 2-8, 10-14 and 16-20, each of these rejected claims is a dependent claim. Accordingly, these claims are allowable over the cited references for at least the reasons discussed above for the independent claims 1, 9 and 15.

In light of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kwok be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the rejections of record be reconsidered and withdrawn by the Examiner, that claims 1, 2, 4-10, 12-16 and 18-20 be allowed, and that the application be passed to issue. If a conference would expedite prosecution of the instant application, the Examiner is hereby invited to telephone the undersigned to arrange such a conference.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments: One Replacement Sheet of Figure 2
Annotated Sheet showing changes to Figure 2